

Spring 2013

History 160 / EAS 132
Modern Japan

MWF 1-1:50 pm
King 101
Office Hours: W 2:30 – 4pm
Th. 2:45 – 4:15pm

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This course surveys Japan's modern transformation from the Meiji Restoration of 1868 to the present. It examines how political, social, and economic modernization were simultaneous projects while considering their impact on the lives of citizens at home and imperial subjects abroad. We focus on how economic volatility, popular struggles for representative democracy, war, and colonization represent aspects of Japan's twentieth century experience as well as widely shared dilemmas of modernity.

Students are encouraged to keep in mind the following goals for maximizing learning throughout the semester:

- To look for patterns and themes in history. Students are encouraged to draw connections between major events and ideas in Japan's modern history and those encountered in other history courses.
- To think about how historians practice their craft. In particular, students will learn to read and interpret a variety of primary sources as a way of understanding the creation of multiple perspectives on the past.
- To understand how history-writing is shaped by contemporary concerns.
- To improve expository writing about historical events; to posit an argument and develop it in a clear and logical progression.
- To polish the verbal articulation of ideas before an audience of one's peers.
- To gain an appreciation for Japan's role in today's world, understanding the relationship between where it has been and where it is headed as a nation.

Required texts: Required texts have been ordered in paperback at the Oberlin Bookstore (basement) as well as placed on reserve at Mudd Library.

1. Gordon, Andrew. *A Modern History of Japan: From Tokugawa Times to the Present* (2nd Edition). Oxford: Oxford University, 2009.
2. De Bary, William Theodore, ed. *Sources of Japanese Tradition, Volume 2, Second Edition, Abridged: Part 2: 1868 to 2000*. New York: Columbia University, 2006.
3. Ishinomori Shōtarō, *Japan Inc.: An Introduction to Japanese Economics*. University of California Press, 1988.

All other readings are available on Blackboard.

ASSESSMENT:

The course grade will be based on the following:

- Mid-term (hour) exam: 20%
- Short papers: 20% each
- Final exam: 20%
- Pop quizzes: 5%
- Attendance/Participation: 15%

EXAMS: The **Midterm Examination**, covering the lectures and all assigned readings to date will be given on **Monday, March 4**. The **Final Examination** is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 15** from 9-11am.

PAPERS: Students will write two 3-5 page essays, due in class **Friday, March 22** and **Monday, May 6**.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:

- Lectures are an integral part of the course, and attendance is mandatory.
- Students are expected to complete all readings and be prepared to discuss in class.
- In select weeks, students will be responsible for posting either a question or answer related to assigned readings on the **online discussion board** in Blackboard. Schedules for this assignment will be distributed in the second week of class. Students may expect to post six questions or answers during the course of the semester.
- Be prepared to engage with your classmates on Fridays during the weekly discussion section when we will conduct close readings of assigned primary sources. If you want a good grade in this class, you must participate regularly. Students with concerns regarding this stipulation should talk to the instructor at the start of the semester.

AUDIO-VISUAL CULTURE ASSIGNMENT: Students will write a one-page single-spaced description of a painting, sculpture, installation, or musical work of their choosing. Students should explain the importance of the chosen work within the context of relevant themes from the history of its period and, if appropriate, discuss cultural or historical allusions embedded in the work. The assignment is due **Monday, April 22** in class.

POP QUIZZES will be conducted at the instructor's discretion. These will normally occur on Fridays by which date students will be expected to have completed all of the week's readings.

LATE POLICY: All assignments are due on (or before) the date noted in the syllabus. Only one extension will be granted per semester and must be requested during office hours **at least 2 days before the due date of the paper**. (Note: Requests for extensions may not be granted in all cases.) Late assignments will be reduced by one grade step per day.

Special Needs: Requests for extra time on exams and other special needs must be made well in advance of exam times/other due dates and must be accompanied by an endorsement from Ms. Jane Boomer, Student Academic Services (Peters G27).

FILM SCREENINGS: Three films will be shown during the course of the semester in Wilder 101. The first, “**No Regrets for our Youth**” (*Waga seishun ni kuinashi*, 1946) by Director Kurosawa Akira will be screened on **Tuesday, April 2 at 7pm**. The second film, “**Night and Fog in Japan**” (*Nihon no yoru to kiri*, 1960) by Director Ōshima Nagisa will be screened on **Tuesday, April 16 at 7pm**. While viewing of the first two films is mandatory, students are encouraged also to attend the screening on **Thursday, April 4 at 7pm** of Director Frank Capra’s 1945 War Department Orientation Film, “**Know Your Enemy—Japan.**” All films will be available for viewing on library reserve if you cannot make the screenings. Films will be discussed during lecture in conjunction with the readings for the week.

Honor Code: All students are expected to adhere to the Oberlin Honor Code on all written assignments and examinations.

Writing Assistance: Students are encouraged to visit the Writing Center in Mudd where tutors from the Writing Associates Program can provide tips and strategies for improving writing skills.

LECTURE SCHEDULE:

Week 1: Japan’s Modern Revolution

- Feb 4 (M) Introduction; Meiji Restoration
- Feb 6 (W) Dismantling Feudalism, Creating a Nation-State
- Feb 8 (F) Discussion of Primary Sources

Readings:

Gordon, Andrew. *A Modern History of Japan (MHJ)*, ch. 5.

Primary Sources*:

“Memorial on the Proposal to Return the Registers,” pp. 10-12

“Imperial Rescript on the Abolition of the *Han*,” p. 12.

Conscription Ordinance, 1873. [Blackboard]

**All entries under “Primary Sources” can be found in Sources of Japanese Tradition, (Vol. 2, Part 2) unless otherwise noted.*

Week 2: Freedom and Popular Rights

- Feb 11 (M) Civilization and Enlightenment
- *Feb 13 (W) Freedom and Popular Rights, 1873-1889
- Feb. 15 (F) Discussion of Primary Sources

There will be a map quiz at the beginning of class on Wednesday, Feb. 13.

Readings:

MHJ, ch. 6.

Soviak, Eugene. "On the Nature of Western Progress: The Journal of the Iwakura Mission," in Shively, ed. *Tradition and Modernization in Japanese Culture*, pp. 7-34.
[Blackboard]

Primary Sources:

"Consequences of the Iwakura Mission: Saigō and Ōkubo on Korea," pp. 17-24.

"Kido's Observations on Returning from the West," pp. 16-17.

Mori Arinori, "On Wives and Concubines," p. 43-44.

Itō Hirobumi, "Memorial on Constitutional Government, Dec. 1880," pp. 59-61.

Chiba Takusaburō, "The Way of the King" (1882), pp. 62-64.

Nakae Chōmin. *A Discourse by Three Drunkards on Government* (1887), p. 64.

"The Constitution of 1889," pp. 76-79.

Week 3: Building Modernity

- Feb. 18 (M) Building Modernity
Feb. 20 (W) Modern Economic Growth
Feb. 22 (F) Education

Readings:

MHJ, ch. 7.

Czarnecki, Melanie. "Bad Girls from Good Families: the Degenerate Meiji Schoolgirl," in Miller, ed., *Bad Girls of Japan*. (2005): pp. 49-64.
[Blackboard]

Primary Sources:

Fukuzawa Yukichi, "An Encouragement of Learning," pp. 92-94.

Motoda Eifu, "Great Principles of Education," pp. 96-98.

"Imperial Rescript on Education," pp. 108-10.

"Progress of Female Education in Meiji," pp. 115-16.

Tsurumi, *Factory Girls: Women in the Thread Mills of Meiji Japan*, pp. 25-46.

Week 4: The Meiji Wars

- Feb. 25 (M) 1890s: New Concepts of "Japanese-ness"
Feb. 27 (W) War with China, 1894-95 / War with Russia, 1904-05
March 1 (F) The Battle of Tsushima

Readings:

MHJ, ch. 8.

Keene, Donald. "The Sino-Japanese War and its Cultural Effects in Japan," in Shively, ed. *Tradition and Modernization in Japanese Culture*, pp. 121-75.

Roden, Donald. "Baseball and the Quest for National Dignity in Meiji Japan," *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 85, No. 3 (Jun., 1980): 511-34.

Primary Sources:

"Tokutomi Sohō: A Japanese Nationalist's View of the West and Asia," pp. 127-28.

"Tokutomi Sohō: Supporting the Imperial State and Military Expansion;" "Rejoicing Over Victory in the Sino-Japanese War;" "Resentment Resulting from the Triple Intervention," pp. 132-33.

Week 5: Generating Capitalism

March 4 (M) **In-class Midterm**

March 6 (W) Empire Attained and Industrialization Begun

March 8 (F) Factory Girls

Readings:

MHJ, ch. 9. (Review *MHJ*, ch. 7.)

Tsurumi, *Factory Girls: Women in the Thread Mills of Meiji Japan*, pp. 92-102; 191-98.

Nolte, Sharon, H. and Sally Hastings. "The Meiji State's Policy Toward Women, 1890-1910," in Bernstein, ed., *Recreating Japanese Women*, pp. 151-74.

Primary Source:

Yamakawa Kikue, "Record of the Generations of Women," (1956) pp. 482-86.

Week 6: Prewar Liberalism

March 11 (M) A Politicized Citizenry, An Enlarged Electorate

March 13 (W) *Minponshugi* / Contention in the Workplace

March 15 (F) Discussion

Readings:

MHJ, ch. 10.

Primary Sources:

Kōtoku Shūsui, "The Change in My Thought," pp. 218-22.

Yoshino Sakuzō, "Democracy as *Minponshugi*," pp. 163-80.

Week 7: Alternative Modernities

March 18 (M) The End of Capitalism?; The Rise and Fall of Party Cabinets
March 20 (W) Visions of a New Society
March 22 (F) **Paper #1 due in class.**

Readings:

MHJ, ch. 11.

Spring Recess

Week 8: Depression, War, Defeat

April 1 (M) Militarism and Politics
April 3 (W) Imperial Japan at War
April 5 (F) Total Defeat

Film (Required): “No Regrets for our Youth” (*Waga seishun ni kuinashi*, 1946) by Director Kurosawa Akira will be screened on **Tuesday, April 2.**

***Film (Optional): “Know Your Enemy—Japan”** (War Department orientation film. Director: Frank Capra, 1945) will be screened on **Thursday, April 4.**

Readings:

MHJ, ch. 12.

Dower, John W. *War Without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War*. (1993). Chs. 4, 5, 9 (pp. 77-117; 234-61). [**Available on-line through OBIS**]

Primary Sources:

“Shidehara Kijūrō: Conciliatory Diplomacy,” (1930) pp. 208-211.

“The Decision for War with the United States,” (1941) pp. 309-12.

Yokoyama Ryūichi, “Cartoons for the War.” In Haruko and Theodore Cook, eds., *Japan at War: An Oral History* (1992): pp. 95-99. [**Blackboard**]

Week 9: Transwar

April 8 (M) Reckoning and Repatriation
April 10 (W) Rebuilding
April 12 (F) Recreation

Readings:

Dower, *Embracing Defeat*, chs. 2, 4, 6.

Primary Sources:

“Imperial Rescript on Surrender,” (1945) pp. 317-19.

“The 1947 Constitution,” pp. 330-37.

Ōe Kenzaburō, “Growing up during the Occupation,” (1965) pp. 374-77.

Week 10: The High-Growth Era, 1956-1973

*April 15 (M) Citizen, State, and Democracy in the Postwar Era
April 17 (W) Middle Class Life for Everyone?
April 19 (F) Social Revolutions

Readings:

MHJ, Chs. 14-15.

Dower, *Embracing Defeat*, ch. 17 (pp. 525-46)

Kushner, Barak. "Gojira as Japan's First Postwar Media Event," in William M. Tsutsui and Michiko Itō, eds., *In Godzilla's Footsteps: Japanese Pop Culture Icons on the Global Stage* (2006): pp. 41-50. [Available on-line through OBIS]

Primary Sources:

Nakasone Yasuhiro, "The 'MacArthur' Constitution," (1953) pp. 388-89.

*Film (Required): "Night and Fog in Japan" (1960) by Director Ōshima Nagisa to be screened: **Tues., April 16.**

Week 11: The '80s Boom

April 22 (M) **Audio-Visual Culture assignment due.** The Making of the Bubble
April 24 (W) Japan on the World Stage
April 26 (F) Japan, Inc.

Readings:

MHJ, Ch. 16.

Ishinomori Shōtarō. *Japan Inc.: An Introduction to Japanese Economics*.

Primary Sources:

Ishihara Shintarō, *The Japan that Can Say No*. chs. 2-3 (pp. 26-41). [Blackboard]

Smith, Patrick L. "Letter from Tokyo," *The New Yorker* (Oct. 1, 1990): pp. 91-105. [Blackboard]

Week 12: The 'Lost Decade' of the '90s

April 29 (M) The Bubble Bursts and the End of LDP Dominance
May 1 (W) Aum Shinrikyō and New Limits on a Free Society
May 3 (F) New Social Phenotypes & Murakami, *Underground*

Primary Source:

Murakami Haruki. *Underground: The Tokyo Gas Attack and the Japanese Psyche* (1997; trans. 2001), pp. 3-58; 247-64; 333-64. [Blackboard]

Nathan, John. "Tokyo Story," *The New Yorker* (April 9, 2001): pp. 108-15. [Blackboard]

Week 13: Issues for the 21st Century

- May 6 (M) **Paper #2 due in class.** Constitutional Revision and War Memory
May 8 (W) Future Concerns
May 10 (F) Concluding Thoughts

Readings:

MHJ, Ch. 17.

Primary Sources:

Kiyama Terumichi, "Meeting at Yasukuni Shrine." In Haruko and Theodore Cook, eds., *Japan at War: An Oral History* (1992): pp. 447-53. **[Blackboard]**
Fujiwara Akira, "How to View the Nanjing Incident," (1998) pp. 563-65.
Kobayashi Yoshinori, "On War," (1998) pp. 565-68.
Ishizaka Kei, "A Just War," (1991) pp. 569-73.

Final Exam: Wednesday, May 15 from 9-11 am.